

T H E
SAILORS' MAGAZINE.

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No. 11

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

American Seamen's Friend Society.

(CONTINUED.)

BRANCH AND AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

PENNSYLVANIA SEAMENS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

ARTHUR G. COFFIN, ESQ., *President*, REV. J. BONHOMME, *Corresponding Secretary*, JOHN H. ATWOOD, ESQ., *Treasurer*.

ABSTRACT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

SAILORS' HOME.—THOMAS MCGUIRE, *Superintendent*.

The Home has been repaired and repainted within the year, at the expense of nearly \$2000, and rendered much more attractive to seamen. The number of boarders is not stated.

The Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Evening religious meetings have been well attended, and marked by much solemnity and deep interest.

SHIPS' LIBRARIES.

The Library cases are of *five* different sizes, containing from *twenty to two hundred* volumes of well selected books each, and given to the vessels as fixtures.

Fourteen have been shipped during the year on United States Naval vessels, and *ninety-five* on merchant ships, making 238 libraries shipped since the commencement of this systematic effort in 1861.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION.—3,170 bibles and testaments have been distributed among seamen and boatmen in the port of Philadelphia during the year; 83,408 pages of tracts have also been distributed.

RECEIPTS into the Treasury, - - - \$3,543 66

FEMALE SEAMENS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

MRS. THOMAS WOOD, *First Directress*, MRS. SARAH J. HALE,
Vor. Secretary, MRS. ENOCH TURLEY, *Treasurer*.

We learn from the THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT, that this Society has relieved many suffering families of seamen, and rendered efficient aid in refurnishing the Home.

RECEIPTS into the Treasury, - - - \$636 90

PROVIDENCE SEAMENS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

J. A. CHEDEL, ESQ., *President*, GEO. S. YERRINGTON, ESQ., *Vice-President*, J. I. ABBOTT, ESQ., *Secretary and Treasurer*.

REV. JOHN TAYLOR, *Chaplain*.

We learn that the Bethel has been refitted and rendered quite attractive; Mr. Taylor recently appointed as Chaplain, and a successful effort made to raise his salary, and for refitting the Bethel; that a lay missionary has visited 700 vessels during the year, the hospital 30 times, and distributed 12,000 tracts; that the Bethel Sabbath School consists of *nine* teachers, and from fifty to sixty scholars, and is increasing in interest and importance.

MAINE SEAMENS' UNION.

PORTLAND.—REV. V. J. HARTSHORN, *Chaplain*.

From the following report of the Chaplain, it will be seen that this chaplaincy is flourishing.

“In September, 1864, I began my labors in this field, Rev. S. H. Merrill, for many years Pastor, having resigned in order to accept the Chaplaincy of the 1st Maine Cavalry. In addition to the the few faithful laborers already on the ground, three active and influential christian men from other churches in the city joined us, with the express purpose of helping to carry forward the good work. Proportionate results have, of course, followed such hearty and united efforts. We feel also that many other hearts are warm with interest and desire for the prosperity of the cause at this post.

In March last, six were admitted to the church, and four others stand ready to unite at our next communion.

The attendance on the Sabbath increases, especially at the evening prayer-meeting, when the number present is nearly two hundred.

The wharves have been divided into four divisions, which are assigned to different ones, who visit them every Sabbath morning, conversing with the sailors, inviting them to meeting, and distributing papers and tracts. Thus far the churches and children of the Sabbath School have supplied us with the back numbers of religious papers. This part of our labor is interesting and fruitful in good results.

The Sabbath School connected with the Bethel is doing a blessed work; it numbers about one hundred and fifty.

SAILORS' HOME.—THOMAS BAILY, *Superintendent.*

The Sailors' Home is all that one could wish, so far as the proprietor is concerned. There, a weekly prayer-meeting is held which has been blessed to the good of souls. In these, several hope to have found Christ.

The importance and magnitude of the work at this station, appears greater and greater to our minds the more we become acquainted with it. In reflecting, one can hardly help feeling that God has a special regard for this field of labor.

V. J. HARTSHORNE.

RECEIPTS into the TREASURY, - - - \$1200.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BETHEL SOCIETY.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Bethel Society, was held at Rome, April 16th, 1865.

After an appropriate sermon by Rev. H. Loomis of New York, Corresponding Secretary of the American Seamen's Friend Society, Rev. Wm. E. Knox was called to the chair, and the meeting was opened by prayer.

The Treasurer's Report duly audited was then made, and accepted.

Rev. Timothy Stillman, Secretary, then read an abstract of the report of the Executive Committee, which was accepted, adopted and ordered to be published under the direction of the Executive Committee, after which addresses were made by four of the Missionaries in the employ of the Society, and by Rev. T. Stillman, Corresponding Secretary, and Rev. H. Loomis, Secretary of the American Seamen's Friend Society.

The Officers of the last year were re-elected with two or three changes occasioned by removals and death.

After prayer, adjourned.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN BETHEL SOCIETY.

In presenting their Twenty-ninth Annual Report, the Executive Committee of the American Bethel Society are constrained to refer to the circumstances under which we meet. Looking back to our annual meeting at Lockport, April 14th, 1861, we remember, we found it impossible to secure and hold the attention of the multitude who were assembled on that occasion, because the whole country was convulsed with the tidings that our national flag had been ruthlessly torn down from the ramparts of Fort Sumter, by traitor hands. Patriotism demanded a general rally of feeling and action to sustain the honor of our beloved country, and he who would allow his sympathies to flow in any other than a patriotic channel, at such a time, would necessarily find his patriotism suspected.

We meet to-day, when the whole country is jubilant over the tidings, that the unnatural and wicked rebellion which followed that disgraceful event is crushed,—the capital of the confederacy occupied by our army, and the commander-in-chief of the rebel army, with all his forces in our hands, and the stars and stripes are floating proudly over Sumter ; hence every heart is thrilled with the anticipation that peace is about to return, and prosperity to be restored in all our borders. With these feelings absorbing every mind, we can hardly expect more than the bodily presence of those who are assembled on the occasion to learn the success of our enterprise during the year now closed. And when we add to these feelings of rejoicing, the sad tragedy of Friday night, when our revered and honored chief magistrate was literally murdered, and his chief premier, with his assistant were assassinated by rebel hands, we do not expect to succeed in diverting your attention. And were it not for constitutional requirements, and the necessity of the case, we would pause at this stage in the exercise of the occasion, postpone our business routine, and call on all christian hearts in this assembly and throughout the land to unite in prayer to our Heavenly Father :

GOD HAVE MERCY ON OUR STRICKEN COUNTRY.

Still, as we are required at this time to meet and report the doings and successes of the year now closed, and look forward to the year before us, and devise ways and means to carry forward the work committed to our hands, we must go through with the forms, or prove ourselves unfaithful to our trust.

The general features of our work during the year, remain the same as in former years ; and our relations to the American Seamen's Friend, and the Western Seamen's Friend Societies are unchanged.

We therefore beg leave to refer to their reports published with ours, the whole giving a full account of what has been done during the year to improve the moral condition of sailors and boatmen, both on the ocean and on our inland waters.

Confining our report to the inland waters of New York, we have employed thirteen laborers, who have, we are confident, most faithfully performed the duties required of them.

BUFFALO.—Rev. L. S. Church, Chaplain, reports that he has found the sailors and boatmen whom he has met, perfectly accessible to religious instruction, and glad to obtain religious reading when visited on their boats ; that he has within the year, met with many who seemed to give heed to religious counsels, and some backsliders who promised to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of souls. He also testifies to a marked improvement in the character of boys employed on the canals ; the majority of them

seem to have been instructed in Sabbath Schools, and appreciate any attention bestowed on their moral culture. These children and youths which number many thousands, present a field for earnest christian effort, which gives promise of a glorious harvest.—The Sabbath School at the Chapel is in a healthy and flourishing condition.

During the year this Chaplain has distributed 82,000 pages of Tracts and 550 Testaments.

ERIE CANAL AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

We present specimens of the reports from our Missionaries in this field, as furnishing a better view of the work and its results, than any summary we could prepare.

Rev. David Dickey, now in the 23d year of his missionary labor in our employ, presents the following report :

“In making my report of missionary labor on the Erie Canal, at Rochester and vicinity, allow me to say, I have found the boatmen more ready to receive the missionary on their boats, and listen to his instructions than in any former year of my labors among them.

I have also met with many incidents which I think are calculated to strengthen us in the belief that our work is not, and has not been, “in vain in the Lord.”

At one time, I had found a lady who had lost her husband; he had died on his boat on the first return trip from Albany to Buffalo. It was my privilege to visit him several times on his boat in this city, during the winter months, when I believe he found Christ. He had a firm unwavering confidence in Jesus as his Saviour, and departed in peace.

This lady who was a christian, indeed a member of the First Presbyterian Church of ———, was anxious to do more for Christ than ever before. She requested me to furnish her with tracts to distribute among the boatmen as she met them. She had given away all her tracts and papers that I had left on the boat the previous year, and had drawn several books from her own library.—I furnished her with the tracts, and she thus became a self-constituted lady missionary.

This lady has since died. I visited her several times during her sickness, and always found her calm and peaceful; gentle as a lamb, waiting the call of the good Shepherd.

Her departure from earth was about the same hour of the night that Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God before their chains fell off. I was sent for about an hour previous, by her request. She wished me to go with her as far as the gate and obtain a veiled view of that glorious home in prospect before her. I attended her funeral one of the coldest days of the winter, and followed her remains to Mount Hope, to repeat over her grave those solemn words,—“Dust to Dust, Earth to Earth.”

I have found the condition of the boys much improved the last year. They are now kept on the boats instead of congregating at the barns, as in former years. Their condition, however, is still deplorable.

I met a little fellow about eleven years of age on the tow path, just before the close of navigation; it was a cold, rainy day. He was poorly clad. I asked his name, which was readily given. I then inquired where he lived; his reply was, “I don't live any where, I've got no home.”

He told about his parents, when and where they died. When I spoke to him of his mother he was much moved, and I did not know at one time but he would really throw his arms around my neck. Ah! I found the hand print of that mother on this little rude heart.

I gave him a tract and testament for which he gave me many thanks, and then said the good bye with the tears coarsing down his cheeks. How I wish every one who has ever heard of the Bethel cause, could have witnessed that parting scene, and heard that last "good bye, good bye." May the Lord help us all in the future."

M. M. Padelford reports :

"I am glad to be able to say, that I could plainly perceive a happy change in the feelings and disposition of the boatmen, even during the two seasons that I labored. While two years ago I met a few very cold and even insolent insults, nothing of the kind occurred last season. Captains and all seemed glad to have me ride and talk with them. Frequently would they come to the side of the boat when I was passing, and politely ask for a tract. Not unfrequently have I seen tears come to their eyes while I told them of Jesus, and the simple story of the cross. Backsliders, I met in abundance, and while many of them promised me that they would reform, some told the oft-repeated story, that they could not live religiously on the canal. I believe that eternity alone will reveal the good results of the faithful labors performed in behalf of this class.

I had hoped to meet many with whom I talked years ago, that I might learn whether my labor had been in vain or not; but I don't know that I met one. I happened almost always to get on to different boats from those visited last year, and others had changed hands. But we have the promise of the Father, that his word shall not return to him void, nor will a word fitly spoken or a tract properly given be without its reward.

Number of boats visited, 650.

Number of tracts distributed, 5,200.

How many gospel sermons do those precious tracts contain? What volumes of precious truth. May God bless them to the spiritual good of those who read, is the humble prayer of your Brother in the Lord."

B. R. Benton reports :

"I commenced my labors for the Bethel cause, on July 13th, taking the place of our esteemed Brother Padelford, as circumstances required him to discontinue his labors here. In entering upon this work, I must say, I did so, with no little "fear and trembling," for I felt that he who labors in any field for the good of souls, and the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth, has a fearful responsibility resting upon him. But all the way through, I have been upheld and sustained by the power of God, and to-day I have to thank Him for His constant comfort and support. And though at times, when I have met with ill treatment and abuse, I have felt discouraged, and all was *dark*, I have, just at those times, seemed to hear *something* saying, "Be of good cheer, I am with you always," and I have taken fresh courage and labored with renewed zeal.

Some with whom I have met and conversed were professors of religion, and members of the church. On leaving them they thanked me kindly for my visit, and requested an interest in my prayers, both for themselves and for boatmen generally. Some others whom I met were backsliders; I tried to show them, in my feeble way, that Jesus was ever ready to forgive, and take the penitent prodigal home. But the great majority of those who labor on this thoroughfare, are without a hope in Christ.

Oh, what a field here presents itself! So many of the young and middle aged men and women of our land, living on, from day to day, caring not for the Sabbath, the Bible, or for any of God's commands. And so many of our youth, too, growing up in wickedness, with their ears ever filled with cursing and blasphemy, many of them homeless, friendless orphans, and no one scarcely caring for the weal or woe of their immortal souls. Truly, I had no conception of the magnitude of this work till I entered upon it. I might relate instances in which I was grossly abused, but I will not tax your patience with a narra-

tion of them, as I fear I have already wearied you with so lengthy a report. I will merely say, in conclusion, that having striven to do my whole duty, if I have failed, in any respect, I pray for forgiveness of my Heavenly Father; and if I have been in His hands, the humble instrument of doing good to a single soul, let all the glory be given to God.

Number of Boats visited, 1,238.

Number of Tracts distributed, 6,188.

Number of pages distributed, 33,963."

H. T. Perry reports :

"At Weedsport, a small library is to be secured for the use of the drivers the present autumn.

Though a constant witness of Sabbath breaking, profanity and their attendant evils, the experience of every day was yet both pleasant and encouraging. While the effects of these sins, gathering their folds closer and closer about the victim, till all sense of shame is lost, and all manly feeling is crushed from the soul, could but discourage, still the occasional discovery of a trembling one not yet hardened, struggling with, yet yielding to temptations which it was impossible to resist,—the oft' told tale of the fatherless, "providing support for a mother and sister,"—the honest confession of the wanderer tired of adventure, and longing to be free from his bondage to vice, frequent conversations with the earnest Sabbath-keeping christians, especially the gradual yielding of individuals from stubborn resistance of religious principle, to candid inquiry, made the experience of every half day a delight, and associated every place visited, with incidents which can never be forgotten.

It was my custom on Sundays, to visit the barns and passing boats in the morning, and such other times as seemed best, leaving religious reading for the day. The mission work was itself so pressing that I felt *that* my special duty."

Elliot A. Tuttle, Missionary at Syracuse, reports :

"I entered upon my work last season with more confidence as to the result of my labors than I did the previous year, being fully persuaded that there is no class of people (unless it is our soldiers) that can be more successfully reached by the truth, or who are more willing to receive religious instruction, than are our sailors and boatmen; and many of them are more than willing; they are eager to hear the glad tidings of salvation through a Crucified Redeemer. Religious reading is eagerly sought after by many of them. I have seen captains, while their boats were passing swiftly along, when they saw me coming with tracts and papers in my hands, climb down the sides of their boats, and receive the tracts which I had hastily selected for them, and others requesting me to be sure and leave some tracts on their boats. I have had many happy meetings with those I had met and held such counsel with the year before; some that were very wicked I found much improved, and they seemed glad to see me, and receive words of encouragement and good cheer. I have met with less opposition and insult this year than the year before, and but very few refused to receive religious reading; and some of those who seemed at first to rage like lions with anger, after a few kind words spoken to them have become quiet as lambs.

I remember one case in particular. I stepped on to a boat early one morning, while the captain and his family were at breakfast. I went to the cabin door, and passed some tracts in. A young lady took them, when the captain snatched them out of her hands and threw them back on deck. I quietly picked them up, and handed some to a company of men standing on the deck, and commenced conversing with them. Soon the captain came on deck, furiously swearing about ministers and everything that was good. I followed him about the deck, now and then dropping a kind word to him. He soon quieted down, confessed he was a great sinner, and ought to be a Christian; but said he could not

live a Christian on the canal; thought he would leave the business and lead a Christian life.

At another time I found a boat's crew composed of four young men, who were awfully profane at first. I got the captain one side alone, and commenced talking to him about his soul; he began to soften; said he once enjoyed religion, but now was awfully wicked; said he took more comfort while he enjoyed the favor of God than he had in all the rest of his life; and, pointing to his boat, while the tears streamed down his cheeks, he said: "I would give that boat and all I have if I was back where I once was." I urged him to forsake his sins and to cast himself wholly on Christ for mercy, assuring him that God would be propitious. He said he should have to leave his present business, but thought he would do it. He said he had no Bible. I gave him a Testament; then all the crew seemed softened and desired Testaments. I gave them each, one, and they promised to read them. I left them, praying God to add His blessing.

Almost every day I have met cases of more or less interest. I have at times met the afflicted and dying, and have had the blessed privilege of pointing them to Christ as the only source of comfort and salvation. One day, while endeavoring to climb on to a boat that was unloading, one of the hands says to me, "This is no place for you." The captain spoke, and said, "Yes, it is just the place for you," and kindly invited me into the cabin. I went in, and found the captain's wife reading a letter and weeping freely. She had just received intelligence that her brother in the army had been fatally, if not mortally wounded. I had a precious time while pointing them to Christ; and when I left they thanked me over and over again for calling upon them.

At another time, I found a boat captain on his dying bed. I prayed and conversed with him. He said he had tried to live a Christian life, but in an evil hour of temptation was overcome. I left him trying to trust in Jesus. The next day I visited the boat; but he had passed away from earth, and I hope with a full trust in Christ.

I could multiply instances of this kind, but it is unnecessary. Enough has been said to convince every Christian heart of the importance and preciousness of this work. I have an increasing interest for the boys who drive upon our canals. A great many of them love to meet the missionary with tracts and Testaments. Some have come to me showing the Testaments I had given them the year before, saying they had read them through a number of times. I find that many of these boys are orphans, and some of them worse than orphans, having drunken parents. I could give many interesting facts in relation to these boys that it seems to me would interest every Christian heart.

I have met some of these boys late in the fall, after plodding along the tow-path all summer under the scorching rays of the sun, and then through the cold months of autumn. I have met them covered with rags and mud, and heard them tell how their employer had turned them out upon the charities of a cold and selfish world, without a penny, robbing them of all their wages. I have endeavored to find homes for some of them; but many of them are left without homes, and are driven to stealing and other vices. My earnest prayer to God is that some place of refuge may be provided for these homeless boys.

Altogether my last season's work has been a pleasant and profitable one to my soul, and I trust it has to others also. One day near the close of my labors, I found a young man under deep conviction. I induced him to attend class meetings. The second meeting he attended he came out clear, and decided for the Lord. And when I last saw him he was laboring to induce his associates to go along with him.

During the season I have distributed about 40,000 pages of tracts, and several hundred papers and books. I have sold one family Bible, and have visited 1,816 boats, and had personal religious conversations with more than 1,500 individuals. I have distributed but few Testaments, for the good reason that I have had but few, perhaps a dozen in all. And now may God add His blessing for His Son's sake."

M. T. Winton reports :

"I commenced my first missionary labors in this important field in the spring of 1860. My first year was confined to the Chenango canal, from Binghamton to Utica. I was very much encouraged during that season. One good aged brother, since gone to *Heaven* I trust, said to me: "*Brother Winton*, it looks very much to me like a revival of religion when I attend your boat meetings, and go up," as he occasionally did, "and visit the boatmen. That year we had preaching from a boat every Sabbath, at 5 o'clock P. M., with one exception, from the last Sabbath in April to October. There is good reason to believe some good seed was sown every day. I met persons whose hearts were tender and received the truth gladly. The next year I had added to my field the Chemung Canal, Seneca Lake, and their tributaries. I found this a very interesting and encouraging field to labor in. Here we meet many of the boatmen from Pennsylvania. I have always found them quiet, and pleased to receive the visits of the missionary. Early in my labors amongst them, Providence opened the way for me to make an impression on the mind of many of them, that our labors were not for selfish motives, but that we desired to do them good.

In one of my visits at Elmira, circulating our tracts and papers, and conversing with those I found on each boat, as we always find large numbers there laying still, either to load or unload, I came to one of the boats. I found the captain very sick, lying in one of their small births, with his eyes rolling in their sockets, and insensible. They had just had a council of physicians, and they pronounced him past cure, which proved true; he died that night. I called again next morning, and found the wife of the deceased captain to be an intelligent woman, but overwhelmed with grief. I inquired if I could render her assistance. She said she needed some one. They had but little money; they were a hundred miles from home. She had two small children with her, and two hired boys to assist in managing the boat. She said her husband expressed a desire, if he should not live, to have his remains carried back to Wilkes Barre, where their home was, and be buried in their cemetery, where he had a wife and other friends buried. "But," said he to her, "you can't do that; you will have to bury me here, and get home the best way you can." He was expecting to load back to pay expenses. I told her to give herself no more uneasiness about that; I would attend to it. I called on some of the men and captains, and a few other benevolent men, and soon raised money enough. I then procured a large box and ice, and put the remains in it. We then read a portion of the Word of God, and prayed with them; and soon they were on their way back. They arrived early the next Sabbath morning; they held a funeral in one of the Methodist churches, and buried him with his friends. I have since met the widow; she expressed her gratitude to me for my assistance in the day of her deepest affliction; but I said, "that is of no account; did you keep your promise to me to seek the Lord?" She said she had most faithfully. She sought him with all her heart, and she cherished a hope that her sins were pardoned. She had joined the Methodist Church.

After that, and ever since, I have had no trouble with my labors amongst them, but find them my warmest friends. He was an old captain, and was well known the whole length of the canal.

The next year I had added the Junction and North Branch Canal, reaching to Wilkes Barre, Pa., making in all 300 miles of canal, including Seneca Lake, 40 miles.

I have not statistics whereby I can give a correct detailed report of my labors, or just the amount of boats doing business on these canals, and yet I have a general knowledge of the whole matter. There are in all on my field about 700 boats. Three fourths of these contain a family, and nearly every family have their children, so that I visit and distribute Sabbath school papers, tracts, Testaments and books to about eight hundred, and including the driver boys, one thousand; and nine out of ten of these say yes, when we ask them if

they have ever been to Sabbath School. Most of these families are under church influences at home, and large numbers are members of different churches, their children belonging to the Sabbath School. In our intercourse with them we always find them ready to cheer us on; the women, many of them, distributing reading matter themselves, and are a great help in our work of scattering the good seed along, beside these channels of our internal commerce.

At Geneva we have preaching regularly every Sabbath afternoon. Rev. G. B. Gills has had charge of these services, and says they always received good attention. At the close of the services they visit every boat, and provide them with tracts, papers, &c., to read as they travel along. We often preach to them on a week day, where we find them collected together, standing still as we frequently do at breaks, &c.

I have had associated with me some zealous laborers. Brother Albert True reports 23 boats a day visited on an average. He also circulated a pledge amongst the driver boys not to swear. Large numbers signed it, and those that would not sign affirmed that the boys kept their pledge. So we have continued on this field up to this time, and, under the blessing of our Heavenly Father, we hope good has been done."

It is proper for us to say that through our instrumentality there is much missionary work done at such points as Oswego, Whitehall and Albany, where the laborers receive compensation from local sources; also on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, where the missionary is under the direction of the company and is paid by them. In these fields we have the means of knowing that good is accomplished, and therein do we rejoice and thank the Lord.

TREASURY.

Our receipts during the year show an increase over the previous year of \$550, not enough to meet our expectations, or to enable us to add to the compensation of our laborers an amount equal to expenses of subsisting their families, in these times of national strife. This to us is a matter of deep regret, and to them of sad disappointment. As then we are now to embark in the work of another year, with an empty treasury—with a loud demand for more labors—with peace and prosperity returning to our country—and indications of Providence bidding us go forward—we ask for the prayers, sympathies and co-operation of all philanthropists, that we may, with the divine blessing, accomplish more than in any former year of our history.

SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

The Seventeenth Anniversary of the Society was held in the City of Milwaukee, on the 28th of May, 1865.

At half after three, P. M., Hon. J. H. VAN DYKE, Vice-President, called the meeting to order, and after a few appropriate remarks, read the order of exercises for the meeting.

Rev. Mr. LLOYD, of Plymouth Church, then read the hymn commencing,

"When through the torn sail the wild tempest is streaming;"

after the singing of which by the choir, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr.

LOVE, of Spring Street Congregational Church. After prayer, Mr. LLOYD read the hymn beginning,

"Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning."

which was sung by the choir in a most feeling manner.

Rev. Mr. DAY, Chaplain to seamen at Detroit, in the absence of the Treasurer, read the Treasurer's report for the past year.

The Seventeenth Annual report of the Executive Board was then presented, from which extracts were read by the Cor. Secretary, Rev. R. H. LEONARD.

Rev. Mr. LOVE of Milwaukee, addressed the meeting with great power and pathos. He dwelt upon our relations and obligations to the sailor,—always great and binding, but increased a hundred fold by the reckless sacrifices and heroic achievements of the Navy in our late struggle with treason.

The speaker urged and argued strongly, that a grateful, not to say a christian people, will cheerfully look to the welfare of those to whom they owe so much.

Rev. D. P. KIDDER, D. D., Professor in the North-western Biblical Institute, at Evanston, Ill., next addressed the meeting. Dr. KIDDER gave a most deeply interesting account of his own labors and experience among seamen in Rio de Janeiro and other ports in South America. The speaker's warm and generous heart fired up with emotion and pathos, as he told us that his experience for years as a missionary in foreign lands, had convinced him that no field could be made more fruitful, and no men more accessible than American seamen.

Rev. WM. DAY, Chaplain in the Bethel Church in Detroit, gave us an address in his usual style, full of life and earnestness, abounding with facts and incidents in his own experience, mostly in connection with his labors in Detroit.

On motion of Rev. Mr. LOVE, the reports were adopted and ordered to be printed in the usual form.

The Officers of the Society were then elected for the present year.

The whole audience then united in singing the hymn:

"Star of peace to wanderers weary."

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. H. LEONARD of Chicago.

In the evening, large and interesting Union meetings were held in the 1st Presbyterian Church, and in the Spring Street M. E. Church.

At the Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. G. MILLER, D. D., Vice-President, occupied the chair, and conducted the exercises, assisted by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. TOWN.

Very excellent, interesting and enthusiastic addresses were made by Capt. KITTWOOD, Missionary among fishermen in Green Bay, and by Rev. D. PROSSER of Cleveland. These gentlemen, fired up with their subject, carrying the hearts of their hearers with them, until all felt like saying with one of the speakers in reference to his cause, "go on," "go on," "go on." Dr. PROSSER's old enthusiasm for the Bethel still remains, and showed itself in Milwaukee, both in the morning sermon and the evening speech.

Rev. Dr. TOWN of Milwaukee, made some remarks at the close of the meeting, which were full of interest and pleasure to the audience, as the Doctor's heart was full of the subject. He gave a thrilling account of seafaring life in his own father's family, tenderly touching upon the loss of father and brothers at sea; and calling on all to extend sympathy and kindness to the sailor when in port.

At the Spring Street M. E. Church, JOHN LEWIS, Esq., Vice-President, presided, and the devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Mr. LOVE.

The first speaker was Rev. J. H. LEONARD, Chaplain to seamen in Chicago. His long experience and deep interest in the cause, together with his entire knowledge of the habits, wants and ways of Jack, enables him to interest his audience deeply in his subject. And his true and honest devotion to the welfare of the sailor, can hardly fail to arouse the sympathy and approbation of his hearers. Some of the incidents related were intensely interesting.

Dr. KIDDER followed with another very able and telling speech; enlarging on the points touched in the afternoon meeting, and then presenting the wants and claims of seamen and the Seamens' Friend Society, in a most clear and forcible manner.

Rev. J. NATE, District Secretary, also made an interesting address in behalf of the sailor and the association.

And Father Day being called on at the close, made a spirited speech, and we all left more than ever enlisted in the seamens' cause.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTERN SEAMENS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

IN the early days of christianity, when the preaching of the gospel was pretty much confined to our Saviour, and a few fishermen, the shores of the Jordan, the ships of Galilee, and the Mediterranean, shared largely in these sacred and blessed labors. It was from the midst of multitudes of the degraded poor on ship and on shore in these regions, that our Lord sent that message to John the Baptist.

"To the poor the Gospel is preached."

A gospel pre-eminently for the poor, the lowly, the suffering, the outcasts, and neglected of every class and condition of the human race.

It falls to the lot of this association to give the gospel to the same class, to look after the moral, spiritual, intellectual, and to some extent, the temporal wants of seamen and their families on our western waters.

Our merchant ships are on every sea, and in every port on the habitable earth. Our navy has become a power, to make the stars and stripes respected on every ocean.

Our great lakes and vast rivers bear the greatest inland commerce of the world.

Shall we enjoy all the advantages and blessings of commerce, forgetful of those noble fellows, who have sacrificed home and friends, and then their own lives by tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands, as the price they have paid for the achievements of commerce, and the triumphs of navigation? Or shall we show our gratitude, our self-respect, and our sympathy, by extending to them and their families such comforts and privileges as their peculiar circumstances will admit?

The United States Navy has shared in the labors of the Society during the year; and here we have found one of our most fruitful and interesting fields. And it is probable that in future, the navy will require much attention and labor, as the Government naval Chaplains are entirely inadequate; there not being more than 15 or 20 vessels in the navy, whose compliment of men entitles them to a christian minister, and not one of these in the western squadron.

We have had 21 ministers employed, most of them during the whole of the year.

These brethren have traveled and labored on nearly all of the navigable waters of the west, most of them with faithfulness and energy, some of them with great zeal and success.

The past year has been one of considerable interest. Five or six thousand persons are brought, more or less, under the influence of the gospel, in or out of the Bethels, and on ship-board, by means of this Society, every week.

Thousands of children have been gathered into our Sabbath schools, and hundreds of poor and orphan ones have been clothed and fed, and sheltered from the storm.

Said one of these little homeless ones, whose father was drowned, and whose mother was dead, "the Bethel is now my father and my mother, and all the friends I have."

Said another, "when I die, I want to die in the Bethel, because it is my only home."

Said another, who was once a driver boy on the canal, now a minister of the gospel, "all I am, and all I have, and all my hopes of heaven, I owe to the Bethel; for here I first learned a Saviour's love.

Finally, your Board of Managers, in closing up the year, rendering an account of our stewardship, and returning the badges of our office, see no cause for discouragement, but on the contrary, feel more than ever to commend this good cause to the increased sympathy and patronage of all who love to do good.

STATIONS AND MISSIONS.

CHICAGO.—REV. J. H. LEONARD, *Chaplain*.

The importance of this great commercial city, with its immense warehouses, and wilderness of masts and spars, need not now be discussed.

Our Bethel here has enjoyed a good degree of prosperity, as may be seen from the following reports of our Chaplain and Missionary.

To the Cor. Secretary of the Western Seamen's Friend Society:—

In presenting my annual report of the condition of the Bethel work at this station, I am glad to be able to report prosperity. I have preached three times every Sabbath during the year, in the morning and at night in the Bethel, and in the afternoon at the Marine Hospital. We have had a regular weekly prayer-meeting at the Bethel, and frequent prayer-meetings at the hospital. Our meetings have been well attended usually, though the congregation at the Bethel is always more or less fluctuating. A considerable number of persons in my two congregations, have been hopefully converted to God. The congregation at the hospital is composed of sailors and soldiers, and the latter, particularly, have been benefitted by the meetings held there. Some of both

classes, who have died in the hospital during the year, were led to Jesus in their last hours, and left the world in great peace.

Our Sabbath school has prospered during the year. A considerable number of the larger scholars have made a profession of religion recently, and give evidence of a work of grace in their hearts. The children improve finely in their knowledge of the Scripture, and of religious truth in general, and evince a love of the school, and great attachment to their teachers. We have a good library for the children, and another for the teachers; and we give every scholar and teacher a Sabbath school paper every Sabbath.

Tract distribution still forms an important part of my work. I have, during the year, put these little messengers of love into the hands of great numbers of men, as I have found them on their vessels, on the docks, at their homes, in the marine hospital, and other places. The tracts and books put afloat in this way are generally read, and not unfrequently prove the means of attracting the attention of the sinner to the subject of religion, and of leading him to Jesus. The men often speak to me of the good they have derived from reading the religious works put into their hands, and they express great pleasure at the change produced in many a fore-castle, by this instrumentality.

I have done considerable during the year, in the important work of putting libraries on board of vessels on the lakes, and gunboats on the rivers. I look upon every library put afloat as a missionary to the men aboard; and calculated to impart instruction, warning, and encouragement to some who cannot be reached by any other means; and there is nothing that we do for the intellectual and religious improvement of seamen, that is more acceptable to them than this. They are always rejoiced to see one of our libraries put up in their ships for their use. I have received donations of books and special contributions for this part of my work, from different sources, so that I have been enabled to put up libraries, and furnish them to vessels from time to time, as I have found the right kind of men aboard to take them in charge. I have distributed a considerable number of Bibles and testaments during the year, which were gratefully received.

The cause has long suffered here for the want of a more suitable and comfortable place of worship than our present Bethel; but we have now resolved to erect a new and commodious Mariners' Church, with as little delay as possible, and with God's blessing we shall succeed. I am soliciting funds for the object, as my other duties will permit, and am greatly encouraged in the work. The cause has many warm and tried friends here, who willingly contribute toward the object, and some of them very liberally. We have purchased a very fine lot for the church, and paid for it, and we expect to complete the house the present season.

An indispensable part of the work of a seamen's Chaplain is, to visit the men on their vessels, and converse with them there on the subject of religion, invite them to the Bethel, and supply them with suitable reading matter. In this way many of them can be interested and induced to attend church, but short of this they will seldom be found in the house of God. I make this a great part of my work, and I love it. Sometimes poor blind romanists or infidels abuse me and tear the tracts in pieces, but I don't mind that; can do me but little harm, and may be overruled for the good of the man's own soul. The men generally are glad to have me come aboard, and treat me with becoming respect, urging me to repeat my visits, and promise to come to the Bethel whenever they come into port. I find a good many christians aboard of vessels, with whom it is always refreshing to meet.

I have made the usual collections for the support of the cause during the year, amounting to \$1,500, and I have done what I could for the relief of the poor and suffering. We do good to the souls of men; we relieve the wants of the poor; we educate the ignorant; we elevate the long neglected and abused, and we provide for the greater safety of property and human life, wherever committed to the charge of American seamen.

The blessed Master was the originator of the Bethel cause, and the first

missionary to watermen, and He is now using this instrumentality to provide missionaries to convey the messages of life to the ends of the earth.

CHICAGO, April 1st, 1865.

J. H. LEONARD.

DETROIT.—REV. WM. DAY, *Chaplain*.

This important station is in a prosperous condition, as it has been throughout the year. Rev. J. L. King, who was Chaplain here up to January, labored with great faithfulness and zeal. He was highly esteemed, both by the sailors and their families, and the citizens generally who knew him. High hopes were entertained for the future of the Bethel under his labors; but his failing health gave way, the beginning of winter, and in January he sailed for the West Indies.

Under the labors of our present Chaplain, the Bethel is doing a great and good work; not only among seamen and their families, many of whom have been savingly benefitted, but also among soldiers and others who have found here a spiritual home.

The Sabbath school, still in the hands of Mr. Wheaton, its faithful friend and superintendent, is doing well. But here is the Chaplain's report:—

DETROIT, May, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER LEONARD,

As I have been here only about four months, I cannot give a full report for the year, but wish to say, that from the numerous inquiries in regard to the health of Brother King, the former Chaplain, I find that he stood high in the affections of the people. The regular services of the sanctuary have been maintained, having had preaching twice every Sabbath, and prayer-meetings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. These services have been attended by sailors and boatmen, soldiers and strangers, as well as citizens. Some of the members of city churches have aided us greatly in our work. We have had forty soldiers at a prayer-meeting. The second Sabbath after I came here the Lord sent the truth home to the heart of an engineer. Having heard of it I called him out from a boarding house where some were playing cards, and others rolling ten-pins, and prevailed upon him to go with me to the Bethel. After much conversation, I proposed to pray with him and have him pray for himself. But he felt unworthy: "O," said he, "I am a very wicked man." I prayed for him, and after many tears, he faintly whispered, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Soon after this he began to show signs of spiritual life.

He brought home a copy of the testament and psalms, and not only attended all our meetings at the Bethel, but became a constant attendant at the Union daily prayer-meeting. Said a sailor, while I was conversing with him, "O, I would give the whole world for the hope of heaven." Now he has the hope of heaven, and says, he not only intends to serve the Lord, but to help support the Bethel Church. Said a soldier who had just risen from his knees, where he had dedicated himself to the service of God, "there is no one who will be more happy to hear of this than my good pious mother."

Said a stranger from Montreal, with great earnestness, and many tears, "O, pray for me. What I have heard from your lips at the Bethel has done me good. Said I, have you found the Saviour? "I hope I have." Can you go home and take down the family bible and have family prayers? "O, yes; my wife is a good christian woman; do let me have an interest in your prayers."

Our Sabbath school, under the superintendence of Mr. Wheaton, with the aid of some excellent teachers, and perhaps I ought to say, by means of the distribution of many articles of clothing, has more than doubled its number.

In one bible class taught by a very devoted christian lady, there have been four hopeful conversions. At the marine hospital, we not only furnished them with tracts, but with religious newspapers, supplied by the Young Men's Christian Association, which are read with great interest. They have there a very interesting Sabbath school for the children of the neighborhood, and a bible class for convalescent sailors. The Surgeon's sister has exerted a great and good influence over the inmates. Said one of them who was formerly very intemperate, but who, since he left the hospital, has refused even to take wine at a wedding, "If I am ever saved, I owe it all under God, to the efforts of Miss D——. Upon the whole, I think we have much reason to "thank God and take courage."

Yours, truly,

WM. DAY.

CINCINNATI.—REV. B. FRANKLAND, *Chaplain*.

The Bethel here is accomplishing the same great and good work that it was when last reported.

Too much cannot be said in its praise; and if it is properly managed and cared for, it will soon be the greatest moral power for good in any city in the land.

The Chaplain says :—

CINCINNATI, May 1st, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER LEONARD,

It gives me great pleasure to meet the Society's requirements by reviewing the labors of another year of Bethel service. It has been my privilege to report in former years, marked advance in our work in this city; and you will rejoice to know that the work is not only unimpaired in magnitude and efficiency, but in many respects has even exceeded the past. The Bethel, in this, as in other cities, occupies a field of labor peculiarly its own. As the requirements of commerce demand the occupancy of property in the immediate vicinity of our wharfs, of course, the well-to-do population secure more inviting localities for residences, and for church accommodations. This leaves the lower part of our cities almost destitute of religious privileges. So we find our work, not only to minister to the first object of Bethel labor,—the floating population on the water,—but also to maintain sanctuary and school privileges for that large floating population on land, to be always found in these avoided and neglected localities;—a population, that from their circumstances and associations, are more successfully reached by a special and united effort of all denominations of christians. And I have the great satisfaction to state, that our efforts in this behalf, have been warmly seconded, not only by all branches of the church, but are more and more appreciated by the community at large. Religion is undoubtedly the true conservator of law and order.

Our church services have been regularly maintained, and I have the testimony of many who have tarried with us for a season, that these meetings have proved a great comfort and benefit. Our accommodations are still sadly inadequate. I hope, during the coming year, to endeavor to organize a Church Society, and in connection therewith, to have regular morning service, as well as the stated evening one, which has heretofore been our principal effort, owing to the fact that it is the only time in the day when we can hope to have the attendance of the boatmen.

The missionary work, which, in a work like ours, must be the very basis of all successful effort, has been prosecuted with as much regularity and faithfulness, as has seemed practicable, in view of the large demand on my time in other departments. But I feel more and more the importance of securing more aid in this branch of our work, either by volunteer aid or by having another laborer employed exclusively in missionary visitations. I have, during the year, distrib-

uted bibles, testaments, books and tracts, held religious services with families, and in some cases with several families united, held talks by the way with individuals, on religious subjects, ministered to the sick and dying, and sought to satisfy both temporal and spiritual wants.

Our Sabbath school has still prospered, and perhaps is unparalled as an effort to gather in the children of the poor. Our enrollment of scholars is 2400. The highest attendance on a single session of the school, 1960. The average attendance for the year, 1173. Eighty-four teachers, with an average attendance of about sixty, have been engaged in the instruction of these children, and we have an average of over 100 visitors each Sabbath. The average for the last six months has been fully 1500 children. We have the evidence of successful labor in the decided improvement in the behavior and appearance of the children, and in the fact that quite a number have given their hearts to their Saviour, and united with different branches of the church. We have an increased attendance of the parents of our scholars, and also have frequent visits from river-men, and strangers from the boats at our wharf.

Liberal provision has been made for the wants of the poor, through our benevolent system. We seek to convince those we labor for, of the sincerity of our desires for their welfare, by aiding them temporally, while offering them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Our clothing department has been very successfully carried on by our Ladies' Society, with more than usual energy. Their distributions during the winter were as follows: Made up garments, of which all but about 80 were entirely new; 2,116 articles, as follows: shoes, 590 pairs; aprons, 213; girls' hoods, 244; boys' shirts, 132; girls' dresses, 173; boys' pants, 75; boys' caps, 195; the balance, about 400 articles, hose, comforts, under garments of all kinds, shawls, &c. Besides these made garments, we have given 4,830 yards of calico and white muslin for dresses, shirts, &c., and 438 yards of material for boys' wear. I have also given in families, men and women's clothing, and articles of bedding, and such other relief as seemed in special cases to be required. We have, in fact, in our benevolent system, one of the very best Relief Unions that could be devised, as we systematically investigate the cases we relieve, and make the gifts subservient to the preaching of the Gospel.

Our field of labor is large. We could, with adequate accommodations and means, easily double our work. The clouds that have enveloped us as a nation have well nigh passed. As the war, with its large demands upon the means and the sympathies of the people passes away, may we not expect that noble exhibition of christian philanthropy developed during this contest, will be continued in aid of efforts for the elevation of the degraded and the ignorant, the poor and the wandering. That we may all prove faithful to our trust, is the prayer of yours, truly,

B. FRANKLAND.

MILWAUKEE.—REV. G. GRIFFITHS, *Missionary*.

The city of Milwaukee is the gem of Lake Michigan. The beautiful cream colored bricks; the charming streets; the size, convenience and permanence of the business houses; the enormous elevators and grain depots, and the immense trade and commerce, show the indomitable energy and enterprise of her business men.

The elegance of her fine dwellings, the richness and beauty of the grounds around them show the fine and elegant taste of both the men and women.

Our Bethel here at the present time is without a minister, but

judging from the interest manifested by the Pastors and business men of the city, it will not remain long vacant. It is an important field, and must be well cultivated.

Rev. W. D. Clark, our last Missionary, says :—

The Seamens' Church, which was established by Rev. J. Nate, still stands as a monument of his zeal and faithfulness in his labors for the too often neglected sailor; and I often hear the name of Brother Griffiths, his successor, mentioned with appreciation as a faithful and self-sacrificing laborer in his Master's vineyard. There have been no services in the Bethel during the winter, and my connection with the work has been so brief, that I am unprepared to decide whether or not regular services can be at present maintained to advantage and profit during the whole year. I am, however, fully convinced that there is an important work to be done by a faithful Seamen's Missionary in this city. Our commerce is already immense and increasing every year. Our grain warehouses are numerous, and I believe we can boast of the largest one in the world. All these things indicate not only a brilliant future for the place, in a commercial point of view, but an important field of Bethel labor. It is most earnestly to be desired, that a faithful christian laborer, adapted to the missionary work among the excentric and erring, but magnanimous and generous seamen of this port, should be permanently engaged in this important work.

Shall we not pray, and in faith look forward to the time when the christian inhabitants of this city and state shall be aroused to feel the full importance of this work, and abundantly provide for its demands.

W. D. CLARK.

MILWAUKEE, May, 1865.

CLEVELAND.—REV. D. PROSSER, *Chaplain*.

Our Bethel at this port is far from being what it should be; but its prospects are brightening.

The station has been supplied most of the year by Rev. J. E. Lapsley, whose report is given below.

The Sabbath school here has been a prosperous and efficient one for a quarter of a century, and is still doing well. The present Chaplain seems to see here a wide and open door, and a great field for usefulness.

We give below Rev. Mr. Lapsley's Letter :—

TIFFIN, May 15th, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER LEONARD,—

This report includes a period of nearly nine months, from May, '64, to January, '65. Services during that time were sustained every Sabbath in the Bethel, usually with encouraging audiences and marked attention.

The Sabbath school was prosperous, doing an important work among the destitute and neglected children of the city, and the sailors' families. A most interesting part of the work is that accomplished along the wharf, coming in personal contact with the sailors, making appeals, and distributing tracts, which with few exceptions, were as welcome as cold water to a thirsty soul. But sir, it is surprising, and yet it is not, that so much indifference, yea, so much opposition is brought to bear upon a work of so great moment.

It is a matter of surprise that men whose hearts are flowing out with love for souls, should not be delighted and interested in a work, in which our dear Saviour, when on earth, was so peculiarly enlisted, calling disciples from among those who did business on the waters.

Yours, respectfully,

J. E. LAPSLEY.

PITTSBURGH.—REV. D. O. N. JOHNSTON, *Missionary*.

Under the labors of our faithful Missionary in this port, we trust much good has been accomplished. His visits from boat to boat, and from family to family, distribution of the scriptures, books and tracts can hardly fail of doing good. And his frequent conversations and exhortations, and his social meetings on ship and on shore for prayer and conference are especially useful and beneficial.

The Sabbath school is one of the finest in all its appointments and working, in this great city, and located as it is with such objects as it has, it must do great good among the neglected children in the lower parts of the city.

MISSIONS.

Our missionaries during the year past have performed a vast amount of travel and labor. They have visited all parts and portions of our great field; and, so far as we can learn from their reports and letters, great good has been accomplished. Indeed, we are satisfied that more has been accomplished in this important and interesting department of our work, than in any previous year of our history.

One of our missionaries has visited, conversed and prayed with the occupants in 1,130 homes, and 637 vessels. Our missionaries among the fishermen on the Islands, in Green Bay, at Bay City, and other ports in Saginaw Bay—and in the Navy—have been especially blessed.

Indeed, the work among the people on Washington Island is truly wonderful! Twelve months ago there was no respect for, or sympathy with God, or his church, or his people. Drunkenness, gambling, Sabbath breaking, was the order. Now they are a Christian community, with a church, a minister, a Sabbath school, and scores of religious people; and the praises of God are sung in many a family, and by many a tongue used formerly only to blaspheme his name.

Our missionary in Chicago, Rev. W. Norton, says:

I have been laboring in this port as a *sailor's* missionary since the 23rd of last March. During this time I have visited 1,130 houses, and have been on board of and conversed with the crews of 657 vessels.

I have felt that my field of labor was, and of right ought to be, among sailors, those who go down to the sea in ships. But this is a difficult field to work.

This class of persons I seek in those low dens on Kinzie Street called sailor's boarding houses. There I find them playing cards or drinking bad whiskey. I offer them handbills telling where the Bethel is; they take and usually read them, and some of them I next see in church.

But we cannot expect a great reformation among the seamen of this port so long as Satan is master of the position as he now is. In every sailor's boarding

house is a bar plentifully supplied with liquors ever ready to help the sailors on the road to destruction; and Satan wants to maintain his advantages, and he will do so until we have a Seamen's Home erected here, and kept upon Christian principles. Then, with a new Bethel, which we hope to erect during the coming summer, we may hope, by God's blessing, to reform these men.

Capt. Kitwood, writing from the Islands, May, 1865, says:

Your missionary commenced his labors under the most discouraging aspect; there never having been a minister settled on the Islands, the people had become reckless and indifferent. But God, who is rich in mercy, has visited us; and now the barren islands have become fruitful, and many are rejoicing in God.

The prevailing sin was the use of ardent spirits, accompanied with gambling, dancing, fighting, &c. Under these circumstances some opposition was met with. Many disliked the truth, hence a difficulty to find a place to preach in. At last a house was opened; and under the first sermon tears were shed by some, while many were under the influence of liquor, and a dog fight took place outside.

July.—Fitted up an old mill. Preached on the west side of the island in the morning; in the afternoon at Washington Harbor, to a congregation numbering from 80 to 100, every Sabbath.

August.—Organized a Sabbath School. First Sabbath, 36 children present, and 8 teachers. The school has been kept up with great interest throughout the year. Many of the children are earnestly seeking the Lord, and bid fair to become Christians.

In the fall, seeing the need of having a permanent place to preach in, we started a subscription for some \$400, and commenced the church. Having no professional architect or carpenter, the fishermen built it; and though it cannot boast of much architectural beauty, yet it is comfortable, and will accommodate about 150. We have obtained 40 acres of land, and shall add to it 40 more, which with the church will be deeded to the Seamen's Friend Society. During the winter we held monthly protracted meetings; and, though we commenced with none to help, yet, ere we closed, several were soundly converted to God; the most were the heads of families. The work of God is still going forward; 33 connected themselves with the Bethel Church, and the prospect is many more will be saved. The saloons are closed; the proprietor of one converted; and now, thank God, instead of whiskey, pure water; in the place of cards, the Word of God; and the dancing parties have given way to prayer and experience meetings. The people having immersed out of darkness, are now hungering and thirsting for the truth. We have found the same desire for the truth existing upon the other Islands. We are looking forward to the time when all these Islands shall glory in nothing save in the death of Christ our Redeemer.

We have held meetings in the church since the first week in April, though not finished; yet, we hope soon to accomplish our task, and dedicate it to God before navigation closes.

Rock Island, or St. Martins, is visited when practicable, and will be; but, in order to do the work more efficiently, your missionary ought to have a boat.

It is our intention this summer to visit all the Islands once a fortnight.

The order of our meetings is: Sabbath School, 9 h. 30; preaching, 11 h.; at the close of public service, a meeting for prayer and experience; 7 h. P. M., preaching and prayer meeting. Tuesday and Thursday, prayer-meetings at the harbor; Friday, west side of the Island. Some portion of every day is spent in visiting the people, the time being improved in singing and prayer and religious conversation.

Rev. W. S. Roberts has written us many interesting letters from the ships of Saginaw; below we give one:

DEAR BROTHER LEONARD :

In giving an account of my labor, it is both proper and just to say that it was performed under great disadvantages. To begin, my field was far from home; not unfrequently I lacked a supply of tracts; the season was quite advanced before I procured Bibles and Testaments for distribution. The vessels were so scattered, that sometimes I had to travel five or six miles to visit as many vessels; still the work was to me interesting, while it was laborious. Had the vessels been concentrated on one side of the river within a space of two or three miles, I might have visited three or four times as many in the same length of time. I have previously stated that they were scattered along for twenty miles.

My labors consisted of visiting vessels; conversing with officers and men on their relations to God and eternity; reproving profane swearing; distributing the Scriptures and religious tracts; preaching to the men, and praying with and for them. In carrying out this work, I preached on the dock, on schooners, in school houses and in churches, as the opportunities were afforded and the necessities of the case demanded.

I commenced the first week in May, and did not leave for good till December, when the ice forbade the running of the boats. During that period, my duty to my family and my country called me home several times; but, still hastening back, took up again the line of march.

While thus engaged through the season of navigation, I delivered 59 sermons or discourses; distributed 4 Bibles, 45 Testaments, 1,801 pages of tracts; visited 253 vessels; traveled 457 miles along the river, and 2,906 off.

While the schooners on the Sag River generally suspend operations on Sabbaths when in port, thus affording an opportunity for visiting and preaching, the steamers work their men through the entire day, affording no opportunity for religious services, and frequently interrupt the arrangement to hold meeting on the schooners. Reformation at this point is urgently demanded by the welfare of the men employed, by the safety of commerce, the welfare of the country, and the honor of God!

I have frequent and interesting conversation with captains and hands on the observance of the Sabbath; and the sentiment is gaining strength among the boatmen that they ought to have their day of rest. And many captains, though not professedly religious, are of the opinion that it is a losing business to leave port on Sabbath, or to do any other kind of unnecessary labor. How important that these convictions should be deepened by faithful labor among them.

While busily engaged on another Sabbath in visiting vessels, I stepped to the fore-castle of a schooner, and heard one sailor reading with great earnestness to some others. When they saw me, they invited me down. Accepting the invitation, I descended, and, ascertaining that some were Catholics, I took my Testament, read and explained; and, after a free conversation on the great concerns of the soul, I inquired, "Have you any objection to my kneeling down and praying?" The answer was, "Not any." We then bowed, Protestants and Catholics together; and as those apparently sincere, though deluded Catholics, were borne up before the mercy seat in the name of Christ Jesus, the only intercessor, there seemed to be a near approach to the throne of God! That was indeed a day of deep interest to the missionary, as I visited ten vessels, conversed with a number of persons, reproved the profane swearer, gave the appropriate tracts, read and explained the Scriptures, prayed with the sailors, distributed four Testaments, 140 pages of tracts, and then preached in one of the churches in the evening.

May the God of all grace own and bless these feeble labors or efforts to the everlasting welfare of souls and the glory of His great name.

APPENDIX.

In order to give a full history of the Seamen's cause in this country, for the year, we append to our Report, brief abstracts of the Reports of local, independent, but co-operative Societies, so far as we can obtain them.

BALTIMORE.

SEAMEN'S UNION BETHEL SOCIETY.

WM. GRAHAM, Esq., *President*. LEWIS ANDOUN, Esq., *Cor. Secretary*.

UNION BETHEL.—REV. HENRY SLICER, *Chaplain*.

SAILORS' HOME.—MR. EDWARD KIRBY, *Superintendent*.

From the FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT, the last received, we learn that the Bethel has been repaired and repainted, at an expense of about \$1000; that owing to the small number of *merchant* seamen in port during the war, the Chaplain has devoted his labors more to the families of seamen, and to a seafaring community in the eastern part of the city. That there is connected with the Bethel, a Sabbath School of about 300 children. That many children and orphans of seamen and soldiers have been clothed and fed. That the gospel has been preached to good congregations in the Bethel, and that some souls have been hopefully converted, and that the Sailors' Home is in a prosperous condition.

Current receipts of the Society, \$1668 93.

METH. EPIS. BETHEL.—REV. R. R. MURPHY, *Chaplain*.

No report.

PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA SABBATH ASSOCIATION.

JOHN A. BROWN, Esq., *President*. REV. JEREMIAH MILLER, *Cor. Secretary*.

REV. WM. HANCE, MR. J. H. DOREMUS, MR. G. W. MARTIN, *Missionaries*.

The field of this Society's operations is on the canals of Pennsylvania and part of New Jersey.

From the TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, we learn that the usual annual attempt in the Legislature, to repeal the old law of Pennsylvania, which hinders the city horse-cars from running on the Sabbath, had signally failed; the Senate rejecting by 22 to 7, and the House without a division. All honor to the Pennsylvania Legislature. We learn also that a convention of boatmen had been held, and adopted the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*.—That we agree not to boat on Sunday, and to use all lawful means to have the canal closed on the Sabbath day."

The Secretary and Missionaries report over 150,000 pages of tracts distributed, 450 "American Messengers and Child's papers," 500 testaments in English and German, and 100 Bibles, among boatmen and driver boys; that regular preaching had been kept up at some stations, and personal religious conversations with many. That there is a general improvement, some serious inquirers, and a few hopeful conversions.

Receipts of the Society, \$3,590 61.

Disbursement, 2,455 99.

EASTBURN BETHEL.—REV. CHARLES H. EWING, *Chaplain*.

We give Mr. Ewing's THIRD REPORT:

"In sending you another report of the Bethel work, for the year past, I would state that we have held two regular services upon the Sabbath, and two meetings for prayer in the week. Our number of communicants on the roll is 160. We have added but three during the year, while the Lord has restored some who have long neglected church privileges.

I have, in connection with Rev. Mr. Bonhomme, placed some 1000 volumes on board of our ships of war and merchant vessels, which have been gratefully received. From our liberal Board of Publication, I have distributed also hundreds of packages of tracts of the "Sailor's series," which have been eagerly sought after and read with interest, and I believe profit to the soul. The congregation have contributed \$150 in aid of the cause of missions, education, publication, and the great work of light and life on the sea, more than has been contributed during the past nine years together, and a cheering proof of God's in-working spirit.

In my daily and weekly intercourse with the men of the sea, at the Sailors' Home and other boarding houses, as well as on the street and the wharf, I have found much reason to "thank God and take courage."

Yours, fraternally,

C. H. EWING.

Receipts, \$1,484 85.
Disbursements, 1,443 43.

METH. EPIS. BETHEL.—REV. WM. MULLEN, *Chaplain*.

We call attention to the Chaplain's very interesting report :

PHILADELPHIA, April, 1865.

REV. H. LOOMIS :

Dear Brother,—In answer to your inquiries, I will say:—The great Head of the Church has favored us with a gracious work of religion, some two hundred and fifty souls having professed to find peace with God during the last three months. The audience room and galleries of our Bethel will seat about nine hundred persons, but since the early part of January, on Sabbath nights, we have had service in the Lecture room also, and even then could not accommodate the people that desired to attend.

The subjects of this work have ranged from the child of ten years to the adult of seventy-five, embracing many, I am glad to say, "that go down to the sea in ships that do business in great waters."

I might mention many interesting cases, but one or two will suffice.

"A Sea Captain had been forward for prayers, and learning that he was about to leave port, I visited him on board his vessel. He said to me,—“I am not saved yet; I thought when I was at the altar that I was almost saved, but I am not satisfied. I am determined to lead a new life, and I trust I shall soon find pardon. I want my name among your people. I have as fine a crew as sails, and better still, every one of them have found religion at your altar, except the steward, and he is seeking.” They all united with us in church fellowship before they sailed.

"An interesting young lady professed religion at our altar. In a few days after I joined her in holy wedlock to a worthy young man, a mate of a vessel; in less than three weeks she died, peacefully and happily in Christ. The husband at once commenced to seek religion, where his departed wife found her Saviour; but in a few days he was taken sick, and soon after died. We believe they both sleep in Jesus."

On last Sabbath night, among others, there were two ladies, the wives of Sea Captains, forward for prayers, and a third, the wife of a mate, all of whom professed to find the Saviour.

We have two hundred and ninety members, and about one hundred and seventy-five probationers. We have preaching morning and night on Sabbath, and religious meeting of some kind nearly every night in the week. Sabbath school morning and afternoon. Tracts are distributed regularly in the Sailors' boarding houses and elsewhere. The exact amount of receipts and expenditures in the work I am not now prepared to give. We have raised during the past year over three thousand dollars to liquidate the debt on our Bethel,—our current expenses,—and a very respectable sum for benevolent purposes. In all our labors during the past year we acknowledge the good hand of God, and feel like trying, with renewed energy, to proceed in Jesus' work below.

Yours, truly,

W. MULLEN,

Pastor of M. E. Mariners' Bethel, Shippen and Pennsylvania Sts., Phil.

Residence, 110 Almond Street.

EPISCOPAL BETHEL.—REV. WASHINGTON B. ERBEN, *Rector*.

ABSTRACT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT :

"We have now a thriving congregation composed chiefly of seamen's families. A Sunday school of 150 children, many of whom are sailors' children.

About 150 families are under the influence of this mission. During the past winter the attendance at our services has greatly increased, and a vigorous interest aroused in our work. The work of endeavoring to spread the Blessed gospel of God among the stranger sailors who visit this port, is one of great difficulty; but we labor on in faith, trusting that in that hour "when the sea shall give up its dead," some blessed fruits shall be found to have resulted from our efforts to benefit this special class.

We try various plans to reach the sailor; when one plan fails we try another.

Number of Religious Services, 150.

Average Congregation, 100.

Number of Seamen entering the Church during the year about 300.

Number of Communicants, 50.

Altogether, we feel much encouraged at the present aspect of our work, and hope for greater results in the future.

Receipts about\$1,300 00.

I have the honor to be yours, very truly,

WASHINGTON B. ERBEN.

BAPTIST BETHEL.—REV. JOSEPH PERRY, *Chaplain*.

No report.

NEW BEDFORD PORT SOCIETY.

JOSEPH C. DELANE, *President*. REV. SAMUEL FOX, *Chaplain*.

MARINERS' HOUSE.—MR. DAVID ILLSLEY, *Superintendent*.

Says the 35th Annual Report:

"During the year seventy-two vessels, carrying 1803 officers and men, have gone from our port to sea. In addition to these, 592 men have been shipped into the navy. Thirty-three ships have returned from sea, bringing to the port probably 800 men. There have been transfers, amounting to about one-third of the whole number, so that the gross number of sailors visiting this city during the year is estimated to be twenty-five hundred.

The usual Sabbath services have been held, with the addition of one weekly prayer meeting. The congregations have manifested more than their usual orderly and attentive regard for the sanctuary. The average morning attendance has been about 60, and that of the afternoon 120. The evening has found the vestry generally pretty well filled, and the services have been of a highly interesting character. Some of the sons of the Ocean have on these occasions expressed their purpose to serve God and depart from evil, and ask our sympathy and prayers. In some we have hoped rather than felt assured that these resolves would be of a permanent character, while in others the attendant circumstances were such as convinced us that enduring results would follow.

During the year a rough seaman was discharged at this port, he had never been here before. I met with him, he attended our meetings. He soon appeared much moved. "Ah sir," he said, "I have been a sad roving fellow. Many years ago, when a boy, I ran away from home, a good home. My father trained me religiously, but I have lived any way but according to his instructions. I have not been to meeting or among christian people for five years. I am determined to live a new life." A few hours before leaving he took me by the hand, promised me to be faithful, as he bade me farewell, and with much emotion said, "I shall thank God that I ever came to New Bedford. I will go as soon as I can and see my old father and mother, whom I have not seen these ten years."

In our last report allusion was made to an infidel who was reclaimed and went to sea. Letters have been received from him showing him to be earnestly devoted to the cause of God. He went from here hardly believing that such a sinner as he had been was privileged to become a joyous partaker of the blessings of salvation. But he says, while reading his Bible on the first Sabbath at sea, he received a precious apprehension of God's favor and the forgiveness of his sins. This he seems to have retained. Letters from residents of the Sandwich Islands have been received, saying that he has visited the hospital to present Christ and salvation to the inmates there; that he was found among the seamen on shipboard and on shore, seeking to do them good. While at Honolulu he discovered that a Mrs. Rogers, who had died and was buried there, was, in early life, before her marriage, a teacher in a day school where he was a scholar, then a small boy. She had been a lady of piety in early life as well as in riper years. He had her grave in the cemetery pointed out to him. He visited the spot and was observed to kneel at the grave, but it was with no superstitious feeling. He bowed there to thank God for that early religious instruction that after so long a time was bearing fruit; to vow that her God should be his God, and there to look upon her peaceful end as the desirable consummation of his life's battle.

The Mariner's Home, under the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Illsley, has afforded its usual relief to the poor, the destitute and sick, and is in every sense such as its name imports. The sailor finds here comfort, attention, good counsel and every influence that can be used to win him from the paths of sin to a better life."

BOSTON.

BOSTON PORT SOCIETY.—REV. E. T. TAYLOR, *Chaplain*.

Father Taylor is assisted in his labors by a Colleague. A Colporteur is also employed by the Society, whose labors are among seamen during the week, distributing tracts and other religious reading matter. There have been 1626 boarders at the MARINERS' HOUSE during the year, and this excellent establishment continues under the care of MR. N. HAMILTON. \$166.50 have been donated to destitute seamen in clothing.

Expenses for the House, \$97.18. Expenses of the Church, 3,600. Average general attendance 150.

The Mariners' House ranks among the first class of Institutions of its kind.

BAPTIST BETHEL.—REV. PHINEAS STOWE, *Chaplain*.

This Society is now in a prosperous condition and is doing an excellent work for seamen. The attendance is large. The new building, in which the Society worships, has been fitted up, and the earnest Chaplain is able to keep his house well filled with interested hearers. The *Temperance cause* is making progress, and the *Mariners' Exchange*, with its Reading Room and gratuitous instruction in *Navigation*, is quietly doing an excellent work.

BOSTON EPISCOPAL MISSION TO SEAMEN.—REV. J. T. BURRILL, *Rector*.

THE FREE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.—REV. JOHN P. ROBINSON, *Rector*.

No reports.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK PORT SOCIETY.	REV. C. D. MURPHY, <i>Pastor</i> .
	CAPT. J. ELLIOT, <i>Missionary</i> .
	M. C. L. BURNETT, <i>Missionary</i> .
	WM. S. TURNER, <i>Agent</i> .

From the FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT we learn that the Mariner's Church, organized March, 1856, with 56 members, has now on its roll 845—some of that number however have passed away, others are at the ends of the earth;—that the Sabbath School has an average attendance of 222 scholars, and 28 teachers;—that the Water Street Mission is prosperous; that the Society is out of debt, with a good surplus in its treasury. We learn further that the Church at the corner of Madison and Gouverneur Streets, donated to the Society, has been sold for \$11,000, which gives the Society the gratifying surplus of nearly \$18,000.

We subjoin a summary of the labors of the pastors and missionaries.

SUMMARY OF LABORS BY THE PASTORS.

Sermons, 222; addresses on religious and temperance subjects, 316; meetings attended in which they took some part, 495; vessels visited, 608; families, sick, &c., visited, 791; funerals attended, 46; baptisms, 98; calls from seamen and others, 2,235; conversed and prayed with, or had religious conversation, 4,516; communions, regular and extra, 25; pastoral and other letters, 548; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 243; tracts distributed, 18,200 pages; books (other than Bibles and Testaments), 258.

SUMMARY OF LABORS BY THE MISSIONARIES.

Visits to sailor boarding-houses, 2,645; visits to vessels, 3,555; visits to hospitals, 52; visits to families, sick, &c., 438; seamen who called at offices, 2,954; persons prayed with, 3,368; meetings attended, 1,742; temperance pledges administered,

507; Bibles distributed, 116; Testaments distributed, 4,719; pages of tracts distributed, 175,949; volumes of books distributed, 2,059; persons conversed with on religious subjects, principally seamen, 16,850.

Receipts into the treasury.....	\$19,537 05
Expenditures.....	12,607 02

Balance.....	\$6,930 03
Sale of church.....	11,000 00

BAPTIST BETHEL.—REV. J. L. HODGE, D. D., *Pastor*.

Within the past year, the Rev. I. R. Steward, who has labored earnestly and very successfully as pastor of this Bethel since it was opened, in 1841, has, on account of his health, resigned, and Rev. Dr. Hodge been appointed. His first efforts have been directed to paying off the debt incurred by the purchase of the Oliver Street Church. We understand the debt is paid, and that provision has been made for the support of Father Steward during the remainder of his life. It is gratifying to know that our Baptist brethren have not forgotten the long labors, for the salvation of the sailor, of good Father Steward, in his old age. We hail the advent of his successor, and wish him abundant success in his new field of labor. In consequence of these changes we are unable to obtain a report of the labors of last year.

Receipts about \$3,000.

M. E. SCANDINAVIAN AND GERMAN BETHEL.	{ REV. O. G. HEDSTROM, <i>Pastor</i> .
	{ MR. KASTENDICK, <i>German Missionary</i> .
	{ MR. HANS JOHNSON, <i>Swedish Missionary</i> .

We give an extract from the 46th Annual Report of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the year 1864:

"The great good doing by our Missionary Society for seamen and emigrants in the port of New York may be inferred from the fact that not less than two hundred seamen, including officers, have been converted in the Bethel ship during the past year, and more books have been sold and given away in the same time, probably, than in any two years before.

"Independent, or over and above the Scandinavian seamen who entered our port during the year, there have been 6,169 emigrants from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Of the German vessels a still greater number have entered our port, and of the emigrants 57,572 have been Germans. The labors of the missionaries to these people, both Scandinavians and Germans, have, to the certain knowledge of our own managers and officers, been 'more abundant,' even, indeed, to actual exhaustion again and again.

"The bread which these men have cast upon the waters is to be found upon every inland sea, upon every ocean, and on the borders of all lands. There is a ceaseless blessing attending the labors of these men of God."

EPISCOPAL MISSION TO SEAMEN.

FLOATING BETHEL, EAST RIVER.—REV. ROBERT W. LEWIS, *Rector*.

FLOATING BETHEL, NORTH RIVER.—REV. H. FLOY ROBERTS, *Rector*.

MISSION AT LARGE, SOUTH STREET.—REV. R. J. WALKER, *Missionary*.

NEW SAILORS' HOME.—MR. J. MARRETT, *Superintendent*.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT:

"The attendance at these three stations is never numerous; but while the average attendance at a station may be less than one hundred, the total number of different persons who attend during the year may be counted by thousands. The lay members of the Board of Managers, in turn, attend upon all the services and keep a record of the numbers present. According to this record, the results of the past year are as follows:—Average attendance at the Church of our Saviour, eighty; at the Church of the Holy Comforter, sixty-three; at the open-air services of the Missionary at Large, eighty-three; and at his services held on fifteen occasions, in stormy weather, at his mission room in South street, thirty-two.

During the year our three Missionaries have distributed to seamen and boatmen, 147 Bibles, 1,499 Testaments, 221 common Prayer-books, 4,014 miscellaneous religious books, and 132,000 pages of tracts.

The two Chapels, necessarily and properly, have among their religious worshippers some families of mariners and others, living in the neighborhood, and mainly connected with seamen or their occupations and affairs; and the open-air service often attracts a few soldiers and landmen; all of whom are cordially welcomed by the Missionaries.

The Holy Communion has been celebrated at each chapel monthly, with an average of communicants at both chapels of thirty-five. Our Missionaries have baptized forty-eight infants and six adults; and fourteen candidates, presented by them, have been confirmed within the year.

The "New Sailors' Home," on Franklin Square, has continued to be a valuable branch of the charitable and humane work of the Society.

During the past year it has received as boarders 663 sailors; and the sums of money saved from their wages, and sent home to their families, or deposited in savings-banks, amount to \$19,785."

EXTRACT FROM REV. R. J. WALKER'S REPORT:

"THE BROOKLYN CITY HOSPITAL has furnished an ample field of labor to the Missionary during the past, as in former years. Seven hundred and forty-seven sailors have been admitted to its surgical or medical wards within the last 12 months. With nearly all of these the Missionary has conversed, providing them with religious books, tracts, and papers. Many of these poor fellows have breathed their last sigh within the walls of this valuable institution, and your Missionary has been permitted to direct their dying thoughts to that precious blood which cleanseth from all sin. To hear the expiring mariner express his fervent faith and trust in Christ, has repaid the Missionary a hundred-fold for every effort which he has made in his behalf."

MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW YORK BIBLE SOCIETY.

JOHN S. PIERSON, Esq., *Agent*.

Extracts from the Forty-first Annual Report.

The distributions for the year amount to 2,457 Bibles, and 24,821 Testaments, or 27,278 volumes, costing \$5,532.20; being 4,033 volumes in advance of the distributions of the previous year.

Of this number 4,979 volumes were sold at the office of the Marine Agent, Mr. Pierson, No. 7 Beekman Street, to persons not seamen; and \$2,671.38 of the total receipts, which were \$2,812.73, came in this manner. Deducting also some 10,000 Testaments which, though placed in the hands of captains of our packet ships, were for the benefit of emigrants, we have 12,299 volumes as the actual amount of the distribution among seamen and shipping for the year.

A much larger number than usual of vessels from the Catholic countries of Southern Europe have visited our port, and presented to us opportunities for most interesting distributions. Of this class of vessels, two Spanish, four Portuguese, twenty-five French, and forty-four Italian and Austrian, have been carefully supplied in cabin and forecastle.

Our other distributions may be briefly enumerated as follows:

75 new vessels, including forty-two river and ocean steamers, have received large print Bibles, carefully lettered with the name of the vessel on the cover, as a permanent outfit for the cabins.

126 large vessels (mostly clipper ships), bound on *long voyages* of from one to three years, have been furnished with Scriptures in several languages (to accompany other reading matter), for giving to destitute sailors at sea.

502 *emigrant ships* bound to European ports have received small packages of cheap Testaments in English, Welsh, German, French, and Italian, for distribution among their living freight, while on the passage to this country. The following is a list of the vessels supplied: 279 packet ships bound to Liverpool, 54 to London, 13 to Havre, 10 to Antwerp, 1 to Rotterdam, 108 to Bremen, 37 to Hamburg.

305 American vessels bound to Roman Catholic ports have furnished us with as many opportunities for spreading the knowledge of the Bible among those who too often know it only by name. A single Bible for the cabin library, or a few Testaments to loan or give to passengers or visitors from the shore, have been donated.

Position of the Planets for July.

MERCURY is a little north of the moon at about 6 P. M., of the 24th. It rises on the 1st at 3½ A. M., and at 6h. 46m. A. M., of the 31st, setting throughout the month about 8 hours, P. M.

VENUS continues to be the morning star, rising throughout the month about 1 hour, A. M., setting at 4 hours, P. M. It is near the moon about 2½ hours, A. M. of the 19th.

MARS is now invisible. It rises about 7½ hours, A. M., during the month, setting at the beginning about 10 hours, P. M., and one hour earlier at the end.

JUPITER rises at 7 hours, P. M., at the beginning and 4½ hours, P. M., at the end, setting at 2½ A. M., Oh. 38m. A. M., respectively. It is a little to the south of the moon at 11 hours, P. M., of the 6th.

SATURN is a little north of the moon at 9 hours, A. M., of the 2d, and at 6h. 34m., P. M., of the 29th. It rises about 1 hour, P. M., of the 1st, and 11 hours, A. M., of the 31st, setting respectively at Oh. 24m., A. M., and 10h. 22m., P. M.

B. B.

N. Y. Nautical School, 92 Madison St.

Receipts for April, 1865.

MAINE.	
Augusta, South Ch.,	\$23 85
NEW HAMPSHIRE.	
Bristol, Cong. Ch.,	10 00
Concord, Mrs. T. D. Merrill (balance),	15 00
const., Mrs. Anna B. Smith, L. M.	30 01
Pelham, Cong. Ch.,	
VERMONT.	
Fair Haven, Cong. Ch.,	10 50
MASSACHUSETTS.	
Agawam, Cong. Ch.,	7 78
Beverly, Fides,	2 00
Charlestown, Wintarop Ch.,	32 53
Chicopee, First Cong. Ch., const., Sarah	
L. Sherman, L. M.	21 50
Cohasset, Cong. Ch.,	14 20
Union Meeting,	4 20
Dalton, Cong. Ch.,	15 65
East Hampton, Payson Ch.,	68 14
East Medway, First Cong. Ch.,	13 88
Egremont, Cong. Ch.,	9 00
Enfield, Cong. Ch.,	70 00
Foxboro, Cong. Ch. (add)	2 85
Haydensville, S. School for Ship's Library,	12 00
Long Meadow, Ladies' Benevolent Society	
\$10 for Ship's Library,	36 75
Marlboro, Union Ch.,	20 00
Marshfield, Cong. Ch.,	24 60
Mattapoisett, Cong. Ch.,	10 50
Medway, S. School, (add),	1 50
Monson, Cong. Ch.,	31 87
North Amherst, Cong. Ch.,	22 00
North Hadley, Cong. Ch.,	17 00
Pittsfield, First Cong. Ch.,	48 91
Pittsfield, South Cong. Ch. S. School for	
Ships Libraries and const., Master Arthur	
Rice, L. M., \$24; Master Henry R. Pier-	
son, L. M. (amt. prev. acknowledged)	24 00
Rockport, First Ch. \$1 from Infant Class,	
const., Rev. William Dunning, L. M.	26 00
Sheffield, First Cong. Ch., const., James	
Bradford, L. M.	25 10
South Royalston Friends,	9 00

South Wilbraham, Cong. Ch.	8 15
South Reading, Cong. Ch.,	82 34
Anonymous,	5 00
Springfield, First Cong. Ch.,	88 47
North	120 00
Olivett	10 25
Westfield, Second Ch.,	16 62
Winchenden, Rev. B. F. Clark,	5 00
CONNECTICUT.	
Brooklyn, Cong. Ch., for Ships' Libraries,	12 30
Centre Brook, Cong. Ch., const. Rev.	
John G. Baird, L. M.	24 00
Danbury, Sec. Cong. S. School, const. Mrs.	
Joanna Acker, L. M.	20 00
Essex Cong. Ch.,	18 46
Groton, Cong. S. School, for Ship's Library	12 00
Milford, 1st Cong. S. S. for 2 Ships' Libraries,	24 00
New Hartford Centre, Cong. Ch.,	5 35
North Haven, Cong. Ch.,	36 20
Old Lyme, Cong. Ch.,	51 50
Westbrook, Cong. Ch.,	14 04
West Hartford, Cong. S. School, const.,	
John B. Griswold, L. M.	22 00
West Hartland, Rev. C. G. Goddard,	5 00
Westport, I. O.	5 00
Wethersfield, First Cong. Ch.,	27 83
Windsor Cong. S. S. for Ships' Library,	12 00

NEW YORK.

Hudson, Pres. Ch. const., Nathan Cham-	
berlain and Rev. Wm. S. Leavitt, L. D's	139 40
Kinderhook, C. H. Wendover,	10 00
New York city, S. E. F., bark Winona, for	
Ships' Library,	5 00
Grateful, U. S. Ship Lackawanna,	5 00
R. Hoe & Co.,	25 00
Cash,	5 00
Mrs. M. Clarkson,	5 00
James Brown,	100 00
Walsh & Carver,	20 00
Alfred Lockwood,	25 00
Wm. Vernon, Jr.,	20 00
Nathl. L. & Geo. Griswold,	100 00
John P. Crosby,	5 00
David Hoadley,	50 00
Woodhull & Co.,	20 00
C. V. S. Roosevelt,	25 00
W. R. Powell,	10 00
Dr. James L. Banks,	25 00
Samuel L. M. Barlow,	10 00
Cash,	5 00
Mrs. P. Bullard,	20 00
Geo. S. Stephenson & Co.,	50 00
J. T. Tapscott,	10 00
David W. Wetmore,	10 00
Iverson, Pinney, Blakeman & Co., (in	
books,)	50 00

NEW JERSEY.

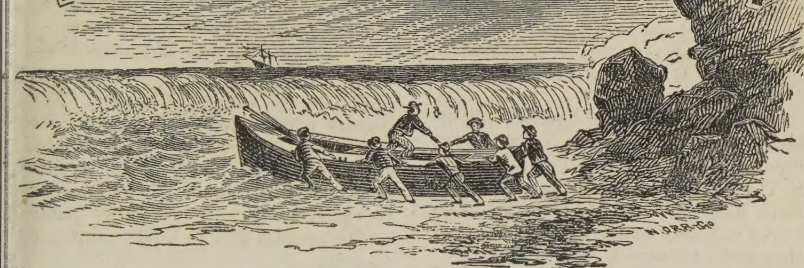
Jersey City, Ref. Dutch Ch. S. School, Van	
Voorst, \$12 from Infant Class, all for	
ships' libraries,	72 00
Madison, Mrs. Anna M. Samson,	4 00
Pennington, Pres. Ch.,	20 00

CALIFORNIA.

Mendocino, Pres. Ch.,	100 00
Oakland, Cong. Ch.,	35 48
" S. School, for Ships' Library,	10 00
Petaluma, Cong. Ch.,	17 35
San Francisco, First Pres. Ch.,	80 10
Miner's Foundry,	25 00
Pacific Iron Works,	25 00
Stamford Booth,	25 00
Falkner, Bell & Co.,	25 00
F. W. Gill,	10 00
J. D. Farwell,	10 00
J. H. Stearns,	10 00
Koopmanschap & Co.,	10 00
Charles Minturn,	10 00
Haynes & Lawton,	10 00
Louis McLane,	50 00
W. C. Ralston,	25 00
Nathl. Gray,	25 00
Agard, Foulkes & Co.,	25 00
Macondray & Co.,	25 00
Palmer, Knox & Co.,	20 00
H. M. Newhall & Co.,	20 00
J. D. Arthur,	20 00
Clark & Perkins,	15 00
C. W. Brooks & Co.,	15 00
Charles W. Clark,	10 00
R. B. Woodward,	10 00
Mariner's Church,	210 00
R. B. Swain,	10 00
L. B. Benchley,	20 00
Sundry Friends,	37 00

\$3,888

THE LIFE BOAT



July, 1865.] Published by the American Seamen's Friend Society. [Vol. 6.—No. 7.

Ship Library Reports.

One of our blank reports sent out with each library, containing the request below, has been filled out in the following manner and returned:

"For the information of Sabbath School children who raised the funds for this Library, the Librarian is earnestly requested to fill the *blanks* in the following *Form of Report*, and add such other facts and incidents, in respect to the Library, as may occur on the voyage, and forward it to the Office of the Society:"—

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Library, No.1282.....
 Shipped on.... *U. S. S. General Pillow*.....
 Port of.... *Cairo, Ill.*.....1865.....
 Number of Crew....*Twenty-six*.....
 Number of readers....*Twenty-one*.....
 Number of books read....*The whole*.....
 Names of books most read.... *Schonberg Cotter's Family, Spurgeon's Sermons, Pilgrim's Progress, Life of Knill, &c.*.....
 Number of Signers to "Ship Mates Temperance Pledge."....*None*.....
 Number who knocked off swearing....*None*.....
 Number seemingly improved....*Seven*.....
 Number of religious services....*None*.....
 Number of awakenings....*None*.....
 Number of hopeful conversions....*None*.....
 Number of professing Christians....*None*.....

Other facts and explanations:

SIR:—

In accordance with your above request, I have filled out "Librarian's Report" truthfully.

I regret that I cannot give a more encouraging report; but to the want of a Chaplain on our vessel, I ascribe the want of religious interest which should be manifest even on a gun-boat.

We have always lacked any one to encourage moral improvement, or even set us a proper example, consequently the welfare of souls has attracted but little attention.

However, considering the state of affairs, I must say that we have a *very* temperate and worthy crew.

The library which has been so kindly furnished us, has been read with a great deal of interest by nearly every one of the crew, and I can confidently say with benefit to all.

Deeply grateful for the favor, and with kind wishes for the prosperity of your worthy Society, I am

Very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,

S. K. FELTON,
Paymaster's Steward.

P. O. Box 44, Mound City, Ill.

American Seamen's Friend Society,
 80 Wall St., N. Y.

No. 117.—Shipped in Boston, was returned from Philadelphia to New York, with a letter from the steward having it in charge, in which he says: "the library has done good to both men and officers who were all glad to get hold of the books.

Within one week after we left Boston, we started a prayer meeting. At Trinidad de Cuba, we distributed the tracts you gave us, on other vessels lying at the dock. The crews soon began to come on board of us, on Sabbath, to read the books of our library, and to attend our prayer-meetings."

J. G., Steward of Brig F. G.

No. 890.—The one having this library in charge, in a letter says: "your library is now on board 'U. S. S. Yantic;' I received it from the 'U. S. Bark Release.' I have from 20 to 25 books out constantly; as fast as read they are exchanged for others.

The chart of the Black Valley Rail Road, I have hung up on the berth deck, that all might see it. Two of the crew, I hope, are on the way to Jesus."

Yours,
C. H., Acting Ensign.

No. 165.—The sailor having this library in charge, says, "the books are read and re-read, how much good they are doing, God only knows. A few of us are trying to walk in the fear of God. We hold prayer-meetings four evenings in the week. We have some very spirited meetings."

P. M. of U. S. S. L.

No. 217.—Heard from. Nothing has done so much for the moral and religious elevation of seamen as these books. They are well cared for and much read.

No. 425.—Heard from; is in good condition. "The crew is made better every way by reading the books."

There is a universal desire to get them, and they are much read.

No. 275.—Returned from 2d voyage; gone to sea in schooner Nellie Barker.

No. 835.—Returned, books much read; three missing. Gone to Grand Banks.

No. 813.—Returned books in good condition; read with much interest; gone in schooner Express.

No. 900.—Returned from the Circassian; has been very useful; read by officers and crew with much interest; good condition.

U. S. SHIP A. D. VANCE,
New York Navy Yard,
May 9th 1865.

No. 1184.—SIR:—It gives me great pleasure to state, that the little library which you so kindly furnished this vessel with, was well received, and eagerly read by both officers and men, and that many a tedious hour was pleasantly and profitably passed in the perusal of the books contained therein.

I am sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
C. P. HANLON,
Captain's Clerk and Librarian.

MR. BATES.

No. 745. BUENOS AYRES, S. A.,
March 15th, 1865.

To the Seamen's Friend Society:

Dear Sir,—Your library, No. 745, on board barque Damon, of New York, has been two voyages to this port and one to Port Royal, S. C. Has been well received and much read by officers and crew. It is just what was wanted for this port; at anchor, five miles from land, where Jack seldom gets on shore. Your library serves to keep his mind employed, and I have no doubt will do much good. You have my thanks with those of the officers and crew.

Very respectfully yours,
E. CROWELL, 2d.

U. S. SHIP POCAHONTAS,
Off Sabine Pass, Texas,
November 23d, 1864.

Dear Sir:

I am in the receipt of your favor of the 15th inst., together with the papers you were so good as to send for distribution on board this vessel.

In reply to your request for my aid in the prosecution of your work, I can only say that it will afford me unfeigned pleasure to render you all the assistance in my power, in the furtherance of this labor of love.

An experience of over twenty-three years satisfies me, that *all* that is wanted to elevate the morals of our seamen is, a proper and persevering effort in that direction. They have hitherto been almost entirely neglected, and I have often wondered that the "Seamens' Friend Society" has been so greatly overlooked, as it seems to have been, especially by those who have accumulated vast fortunes through the labors and hardships of our sailors, and even *now*, when the nation owes such a vast debt of gratitude to the men of the sea, all efforts to supply comforts, both temporal and spiritual, seem to be concentrated upon the army, whilst the navy, which has *opened more than one gate* for the soldiers to march in at, is almost forgotten; and, pardon my professional vanity, but I can't help expressing the firm belief, that but for the sailors, under God's providence, the United States Christian Commission, would not this day have a location in the city of New Orleans. I mention these facts, not in anger, but in sorrow, and I must say that I feel not a little gratified to find by your letter, that there are still those who are not unmindful of the claims of the seamen, and the duty they owe to him as christians.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

M. P. JONES,
Lt. Commander, U. S. N.

MR. R. R. DIOSY,

Delirium Tremens.

LETTER FROM A SAILOR HAVING A
LIBRARY.

DEAR BROTHER:

According to promise, I drop you a line to inform you of my whereabouts.

We arrived all well without any great damage, but met with a sad loss the third day out from New York.—

One of the men, Frank Brown by name, was suffering from the effects of drink, had the delirium tremens very badly. I never saw one in that way, suffer so much. He was holding on to me all that night in my watch on deck, (the night he was lost, I mean,) beseeching me not to let the devil have him; said they were stab-

ing him, and he was terribly frightened and dodging at nothing that I could see. Every noise he heard he said it was the devil. As he was going forward Sunday morning, at 3.30 A. M., the main tack block squeaked in the clēw iron; he said it was the devil, and he jumped overboard in a moment. I have the ship too, but there was no one could see him. I think he dove to get out of sight of those hideous sights he had been telling about. The thought of a man going into eternity in that condition was awful. I thought it must be a solemn warning to those of his associates that came on board in very nearly the same condition; as for myself, I can never forget it. I could not find out if the man had any relatives, as he had three or four names by which he shipped.

Yours truly,
Thos. S. P.

"Not my Will, but Thine be Done."

How shall I yield thee, little one;
How shall I give thee up!
Death's icy hand is on thy brow;
Oh, Father! hide the cup!

This little life that flutters here,
This baby lip I press to mine;
Thou know'st my God, Thy gift is dear,
Yet blessed be Thy will divine.

If 'tis Thy will to call him up,
My struggling soul shall yield to Thee;
I'll drink the bitter cup;
But, Father! help and pity me.

He's like an angel, sweet and fair;
His tiny hand lies in my breast;
His rosy face is nestled there,
And with him in my arms I rest.

Oh, Death! refuse to break my heart,
Touch not this dear, this little one;
With flying wing from him depart;
And yet, oh, God? Thy will be done.

Brooklyn, June 6th, 1865.

G. W. H.

—Brooklyn Union.

Home, Mother, Kind Words.

Three things of great power, yet so quiet, so gentle, we hardly suspect any force. We are bound, swayed, controlled, and know it not. The sway is still, calm, potent as the law of gravity, as the laws of light.

We have a *Sailors' Home*; it is not childhood's home, but the next thing to it.

It has a matron, not the mother of

all the inmates, but next to it; they call her *mother*. Her christian heart and kind words, now and then, tames a wild and wayward one.

Now read the following letter from a boarder about another:

PHILADELPHIA, April 8th, 1865.

DEAR BROTHER, in Christ, I now take the liberty of writing, to inform you of what has happened to me since I left you. I have joined a religious ship, and everything promised a comfortable voyage. We had our religious services morning and night, but God's ways are not ours. I returned here shipwrecked, eleven days from the day I left.

While laying at the breakwater, waiting for a fair wind, there came on board of us, the mate of an English ship, who had boarded with you in 1863. While there, he was a drunken, swearing wretch; but it pleased the Lord to make Mrs. Cassidy the instrument of awakening that man to a sense of his sin and danger.

At the close of our worship, I asked him how long he had served the Lord, the following is his answer:

"In November, 1863, I boarded at the Home in New York, and I was so much set against religion that I would not stay in the reading room at the time of prayers. One Sabbath morning I was standing at the door, and Mrs. Cassidy and her daughter came out to go to church; and she said to me, 'come to church,' I made her no answer, and she asked me again, but I would not go.

In the evening, she asked me again to go, telling me the time was short; I began to think what reason she could have for asking me to go to church.

The next day I went to sea, but still that word "*time short*" kept wringing in my ears for the whole voyage; and when I got to Liverpool, I went to a church the first time for 18 years, and by God's grace I was brought to know myself as a sinner, and Christ as a saviour."

O how glad I was to hear those words from the lips of that mate.— You see, my brother, how great things God is able to do by us. But before I close this letter, I must say

that this is not the only sailor that has cause to bless God for that Sailors' Home. I myself would be the most ungrateful of men if I were to forget the kindness which I received both from you and Mrs. Cassidy, mother of every sailor that comes into that Home. Love to all.

Yours,

W. R.

Work for All.

There is no little child too small
To work for God,
There is a mission for us all,
From Christ the Lord.

'Tis not enough for us to give
Our wealth alone,
We must entirely for Him live,
And be his own.

Though poverty our portion be,
Christ will not slight
The lowliest little one, so he
With God be right.

The poor, the sorrowful, the old,
Are round us still,
God does not always ask our gold,
But heart and will.

Father, oh give us grace to see
A place for us,
Where, in Thy vineyard, we for Thee
May labor thus!

From "*Hymns for the Collects*."

LAWS OF STORMS.—By careful and long-continued observation of the phenomena of storms, scientific men have endeavored to deduce the laws that govern storms. In England, by the appointment of the government, Admiral Fitzroy receives every morning detailed telegraphic reports from all points of the meteorological phenomena of the day. By combining these, he frequently forecasts the coming of a storm, and telegraphs it to the various ports on the coast for the benefit of the sailors.

American Seamen's Friend Society.

REV. HARMAN LOOMIS, *Cor. Sec.*
MR. SAMUEL BROWN, *Asst. Treas.*
MR. L. P. HUBBARD, *Financial Agent.*
OFFICES } 80 WALL STREET, NEW YORK.
AND } Bible H., Phil'a, Rev. S. BONHOMME.
ADDRESS } 13 Cornhill, Boston, Rev. S. W. HANES.

Terms of the Life Boat.

THE LIFE-BOAT is published for the purpose of diffusing information and awakening an interest more especially among the young, in the moral and religious improvement of seamen, and also to aid in the collection of funds for the general objects of the Society. It will be sent gratuitously, post paid, to every family from which a contribution is received, and to all persons who act as Collectors for the cause, provided a package of not less than 25 to one address is made up.